

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01

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P 041033Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1363

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION 22/74 PRESS REVIEW *FEB 3&4

USINFO FOR IOR/M, IPS, IBS,INE

BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA

ROME FOR VOA

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

SUMMARY: MEDIA DEVOTE PRIME SPACE TO

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INCIDENTS ALONG GOLAN HEIGHTS, SYRIAN-ISRAELI

POSITIONS ON TROOP SEPARATION AND INTERNATIONAL
EFFORTS TO EASE RIGID SYRIAN POSITION ON
ISRAELI POWS. DAVAR (ESHED) SAYS DR KISSINGER
IS SEEKING WAYS TO CIRCUMVENT GOI'S DECISION
NOT TO DISCUSS TROOP SEPARATION IN NORTH
BEFORE IT RECEIVES POWS LIST FROM SYRIA. LILLEHAMMER
VERDICT RECEIVES WIDE PRESS COVERAGE. COMMENTATORS
SUGGEST TIME HAS COME FOR NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO
RECTIFY INJUSTICE AND VIEW CASE WITHIN RIGHT PERSPECTIVE.
OUSTER OF HEYKAL FROM ALAHRAM EDITORIAL BOARD
RECEIVES WIDE ATTENTION. ARAB AFFAIRS ANALYSTS TAKE
THIS AS INDICATION OF SADAT'S DECISION TO REMOVE
HAWKISH CMP. PRESS ALSO REPORTS WIDELY ON
PROJECTED STATE BUDGET; EMPHASIS ON HIGH PERCENTAGE
OF DEFENSE SPENDING. END SUMMARY.

ISRAELI-SYRIAN TROOP SEPARATION

(A) HAARETZ REPORTS: Z ISRAELI WILL CONTINUE TO
REJECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA EITHER THROUGH DR. KISSINGER
OR IN ANY INDIRECT MANNER BEFORE IT RECEIVES A LIST
OF POWS--THIS WAS LEARNED FROM SENIOR OBSERVERS IN
JERUSALEM...REGARDING REPORTS THAT KISSINGER DELIVERED
NEW IDEAS ON TROOP SEPARATION TO SYRIA AND ISRAEL..THE
OBSERVERS SAID THAT NO SUCH PROPOSAL HAS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL..
AND EVEN IF IT DID, ISRAEL WOULD NEITHER DISCUSS NOR RESPOND
TO IT BEFORE IT RECEIVED THE LIST OF POWS."

(B) DAVAR (ESHED) WRITES:" DR. KISSINGER IS
TRYING TO SOFTEN ISRAEL'S POSITION ON SUCH A SENSITIVE
AND PAINFUL ISSUE(POWS) AND NOT BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF
CONSIDERATION FOR ISRAEL AND ITS PROBLEMS...THE REASON
RESTS IN THE OIL EMBARGO. SADAT AND THE FRIENDLY ARAB OIL
COUNTRIES WILL ACT TO LIFT THE EMBARGO AT THE TRIPOLI
CONFERENCE...ONLY IF THE ISRAELI-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON
TROOP SEPARATION WILL HAVE COMMENCED BY THEN (FEB 14).
IN OTHER WORDS, ISRAEL IS BEING ASKED TO SOFTEN ITS
POSITIONS ON POWS TO ALLEVIATE THE OIL EMBARGO ON THE US. ISRAEL
WOULD ERR TO RESPOND TO THIS. ISRAEL'S JUST DEMANDS ON POWS
SHOULD NOT BE LINKED TO THE OIL EMBARGO."
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(C) HAARETZ EDITORIALIZES: " SYRIA MUST RETURN THE
ISRAELI POWS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SYRIAN POWS WHICH ISRAEL
HOLDS...REGARDING THE TROOP SEPARATION, IDF'S WITHDRAWAL SHOULD
BE PHASED AND ITS FINAL STAGE CARRIED OUT UP TO THE PURPLE LINE
1967 CEASEFIRE LINE..SYRIA MUST(ALSO) PROMISE TO CURB TERRORIST ORGANIZA
TIONS AND LIKE EGYPT, SHOULD AVOID HOSTILE ACTIVITIES..IF ASSAD IS READY

TO MEET THESE TERMS, ISRAEL SHOULD NOT RECOIL FROM CONCLUDING AN ARRANGMENT WITH SYRIA. THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT EXPECT MORE THAN THAT...."

(D) HAARETZ (PROFESSOR ARNES) REMARKS: "A DISENGAGEMENT LINE SHOULD BE A GOOD MILITARY LINE. HERE (NORTHERN FRONT) WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE LINE ISRAEL HELD BEFORE THE YOM KIPPUR WAR WAS NOT A GOOD ONE.. ONE OF THE ELEMENTS THAT WOULD DETER SYRIA FROM EMBARKING ON A NEW WAR..IS THE IDF'S STRENGTH AND ITS CLOSENESS TO SYRIAN CAPITAL..UN

PRESENCE IN A BUFFER ZONE IS NOT ENOUGH WARNING TO ANY FUTURE SYRIAN ATTACK..ISRAEL SHOULD ALSO BE READY TO PUT UP WITH NEW PRESSURES..SYRIA WILL ATTEMPT TO USE THE POWS FOR THREATS AND INDUCEMENTS (IN THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS)..EGYPT TOO WILL THREATEN TO CANCEL THE TROOP SEPARATION TO PRESSURE ISRAEL TO CONCLUDE DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD WITH SYRIA..ISRAEL SHOULD DEMAND THE RETURN OF ITS POWS BEFORE ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON TROOP SEPARATION IS COMMENCED..ISRAEL SHOULD BE READY TO USE EVERY POSSIBLE TRICK IN THE NEGOTIATIONS--INCLUDING THREATS, DECEPTIONS AND MAXIMUM STARTING DEMANDS."

(E) COMMENTING ON ASSAD'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT, JERUSALEM POST NOTES THAT SYRIAN PRESIDENT IS SEARCHING FOR BACKING OF OIL-PRODUCING STATES TO EXERT EVERY POSSIBLE POLITICAL LEVER TO PUSH ISRAEL BACK TO PRE- SIX DAY WAR LINES.

(F) MAARIV CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS REPORTS: "IF THE SYRIAN AUTHORITIES WILL NOT CHANGE THEIR POSITION ON THE ISRAELI POW ISSUE, A COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL ACTION IS TO BE SOON EXPECTED. VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, ESTABLISHED FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS PURPOSE, ARE PREPARING FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO DISCUSS THE TRAGEDY OF THE ISRAELI POWS IN SYRIA."

IDF STRENGTH

HAARETZ MILITARY ANALYST BELIEVES THAT INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET BUILD SCUD MISSILES UPSET THE STRATEGIC BALANCE OF POWER IN MIDDLE EAST AND THAT ISRAELI MILITARY DETERRENT HAS BEEN REDUCED TO PRE-1956 SITUATION. ANALYST CONCLUDES: " IN THE EVENT OF A NEW WAR, ISRAEL WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE MAKING A DECISION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT TO USE ITS AIR FORCE IN REGIONS OUTSIDE THE FRONTLINES (IN DEPTH HITTING) AND RISK MISSILE BOMBING (INSIDE ISRAEL). THE ARABS HAVE MANAGED TO NEUTRALIZE THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE SUPERIORITY. NEVERTHELESS, ISRAEL SHOULD ALSO GIVE THOUGHT TO THE

POSSIBILITY THAT THE ARABS WILL CONSIDER HITTING IN DEPTH
TARGETS EVEN IF ISRAEL DOES NOT INITIATE SUCH WARFARE."

HEYKAL'S OUSTER

DAVAR (YAARI) COMMENTS: "SHAZLI AND KEYKAL
ARE THE FIRST VICTIMS OF SADAT'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE
HAWKISH CAMP. THEY WILL NOT REMAIN THE LAST VICTIMS. THE
OUTCOME OF SADAT'S CAMPAIGN AND THE PACE IN WHICH HE WILL
CONDUCT IT--WILL INFLUENCE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SHORT-RANGE
RELATIONS....."

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Disposition Event:
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